

RUM VILLAGE

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**609 W. Indiana Ave.
South Bend, IN 46613**



Rum Village is the southernmost portion of South Bend, Indiana. The name 'Rum' comes from an Indian Chief.

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RECEIVED

February 16, 2000

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Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 30307, M/S 010
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

Dear Ms. Dixon:

Below are the public comments of the Rum Village Neighborhood Association (RVNA) of South Bend, Indiana on the DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR A GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AND HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA.

1 [South Bend is located on one of the major projected shipping corridors for high-level radioactive waste. Interstates 80 and 90 pass through South Bend, as do both the Norfolk Southern and the Grand Trunk Railroads. Shipments of high-level waste would be expected to pass through or near South Bend on a daily basis for 24 years. The Rum Village neighborhood is located in the southwestern part of South Bend and is bordered by the St. Joseph Valley Parkway, a projected route for the waste.

Members of the Board of the RVNA are concerned about the danger these shipments could represent to our community in the event of an accident or terrorist attack, and about the impact that the potential for an accident or terrorist attack could have on our property values, even if no actual accident or terrorist attack

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2.

should ever occur. The Final EIS should analyze specific conditions, impacts (including the impact on property values), and hazards along the actual routes that will be used.

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[At a conference on High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation held at the University of Notre Dame in May of 1998, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee members reported that Indiana emergency responders are ill prepared or equipped to deal with any event involving a radioactive release. The Final EIS should include the state of preparedness of first responders as a part of the analysis of conditions along each and every proposed route.]

We hope the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management will take these concerns and comments into consideration in its preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Yucca Mountain High-level Radioactive Waste Repository.

Sincerely,

Roger Voelker

ROGER VOELKER

Shirley Fulton

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Ray Damer

Maurice William

Joan Novak

Roger Baele

Members of the Board of the Rum Village Neighborhood Association